Government have, in the meantime, placed in abeyance all local efforts which might otherwise have been by this time in course of progress towards the realization of the ends in view.——Considerable works are going on in the interior of the parish church of Baldock, at a cost of from 1,500*l.* to 2,000*l.*——The practicability of projecting water from the street plugs by the mere hydraulic power of the mains themselves, thus obviating the necessity of using fire-engines in cases of fire, has been tested at the works of the Liverpool and Harrington Water Company, Hotham-street. A branch of 2 bore was fixed to a common fire plug, and by the mere pressure of the water alone, it was projected nearly to the summit of a tall chimney, about 100 feet in height; the altitude was, in fact, much greater than that usually attained by means of fire-engines, and the volume of water considerably augmented. The stream was directed perpendicularly, obliquely, and horizontally, and in each case with the same effect. Some further experiments were subsequently made in Exchange-street East, and the results, says the *Liverpool Mail*, were equally satisfactory, considering some disadvantages which had to be encountered. With a little alteration in the street water-plugs, it is said, the plan may be effectually carried out in all cases of fire, and thus a very important advantage will be gained over the present mode of projecting water by means of fire-engines. Thus, too, our anticipations of the extension of the principle adopted at Newcastle in the use of the hydraulic power of the water-works there in hoisting goods by cranes, appear to be in the fair way to a most useful and extensive realization.——The smoke nuisance, too, is now engaging, at Liverpool, amongst all interested in the progress of sanatory improvement, that prominent attention which it still requires, and which it now must be accorded. The patent processes, however, of Mr. Williams and Mr. Kemp have there been already applied in consuming the smoke of public works as well as steamers with more or less success. The latter is said to have made a satisfactory experiment with her Majesty's steamer Ariel, and to have even proved that the long funnel itself may be altogether dispensed with; and the former has put up his apparatus in several manufactories in Liverpool, the noxious smoke of which, it is said, he has entirely removed. ——In accordance with the provisions of an Act of 10th Vict., "for making preliminary inquiries in certain cases of applications for local Acts" for the improvement of towns, her Majesty's Commissioners of Woods and Forests have of late sent numerous surveying officers, each in general consisting of one lawyer and one civil engineer or architect, dispatched in couples thus throughout the country into towns, villages, &c., where an intention of applying to Parliament for Acts for lighting with gas, paving, cleansing, sewering, draining, or otherwise regulating or improving, the town, &c., has been expressed. Amongst others, we perceive, in the current newspapers, official notices, issued by the "surveying officers; as, for instance, at Shipley, Windhill, Bingley, and elsewhere, as noted in article on Gas, that they mean to proceed, on days respectively announced, to "make such local examination and survey of the district which such proposed Act will affect, and to investigate such other matters relating thereto, as the said commissioners have by their order directed us to make and investigate;" and therefore *requiring* the promoters and others to appear before them with surveys, plans, witnesses, documents, &c., relevant thereto.

ADDITION TO THE MANSION HOUSE.

The new entrance to the Mansion House, on the west side, is completed, and shows on the outside a Roman Doric porch, of two pair of coupled columns in front, and corresponding pilasters on the face of the building, carrying a horizontal entablature. It scarcely seems to belong to the original structure, the parts are so much smaller than those of Dance's building, and though a great improvement even in appearance upon the former ugly covered way, has no great claims on admiration in an architectural point of view.*

* The first stone of the Mansion House was laid October 25, 1739; but the building was not finished till 1753.

GAS IN THE PROVINCES.

Bills are to be shortly brought into parliament for the amendment and consolidation of the various private acts at present in force for the lighting of towns, and for watching, paving, &c.——There is an amendment in the use of gas, by the way, of very general requirement, which may here be noted down while we think of it. Indeed, we have already done so in more instances than one, but the importance and general want of such an amendment induces us here to repeat the very obvious suggestion, that means for the proper ventilation of the injurious products generated in the burning of gas within doors ought to be insisted on, and provided, either by the force of public enlightenment on the subject, or of legislative enactment itself in course of the proposed amendments. Gas burners consume the vital air no less than human lungs, and we are at this moment in as lamentably defective and aboriginal a state of progress with respect to the ventilation of the deleterious products of gas burning as our aboriginal progenitors were with respect to the ventilation of their domestic hearths while chimneys were unknown. ——During the preliminary inquiries instituted at Ipswich lately by two of the surveying officers (a barrister-at-law and a civil engineer) appointed by the Woods and Forests under an act of 10th Victoria, more particularly alluded to under the head of our Notes in the Provinces, which see,—it was elicited that the quality of the gas at Ipswich is exceedingly pure, and such as to do great credit to the management, and that the price charged is 7*s.* per 1,000 cubic feet, with discount up to 20 per cent. And that the manufacture of gas itself is not an unhealthy employment, although the district at the back of the gas works there is very unhealthy. Mr. Lowe, moreover, in considering the subject with reference to the sanatory condition of the town, deprecated the practice of allowing water to accumulate around gas works, the noxious state of which often occasioned fevers of a typhoidal character of a very desperate aspect. The clerk of the works stated that the company have syphon wells in various parts of the town for the refuse of the gas in cleansing pipes, &c., and that these are pumped out as circumstances may require, so that the refuse does not find its way into the sewers. The general refuse of the gas water is used for agricultural purposes, and is carried away by the farmers. The surveyors were said to be about to visit Manchester also, and other large towns on the same mission, namely, in order to facilitate the labours of the committee on private bills during the present session of Parliament, and to save public companies as much expense as possible.——We observe that the same officers had announced a meeting for like inquiries at Southampton regarding the proposed new Gas Act applicable to that town. ——On the 8th instant, a similar commission is to be opened in Liverpool, in order to ascertain whether the Dale-street Gas Company ought to be confirmed in the power which it now has, to charge 4*s.* 6*d.* per 1,000 cubic feet, or whether the Guardian Gas Company (whose bill was rejected last session) shall be now permitted to furnish the same quantity of as good an article for 3*s.* 8*d.* The agitation of the new scheme appears to have already reduced the price of the article charged by the two existing companies there from 7*s.*, at first, to 6*s.*, then to 5*s.*, and ultimately to the still lower figure just noted. It is admitted, too, on all hands, that "better gas than that now supplied it would be next to impossible to procure," which is more than can truly be said of our own metropolitan gas, as we have already repeatedly observed. Cheap gas and good is now the order of the day in the provinces at least, and surely the metropolis will ere long be inoculated with the same sanatory virus. The reduction of the expense of fittings, too, would probably do no less additional good to the gas-fitters themselves than to the landlords and consumers. In Liverpool alone 44,000 houses will be ere long, or at least ought to be, handed over by the wax and tallow-chandler and the cotton-wick and pith manufacturers to the manufacturer of gas and the gas-fitter. As it is, it is declared that the two Liverpool gas companies supply 300,000,000 lights per annum, with a profit of 8 per cent. on the whole, and that they, moreover, expend 10,000*l.* a year in parliamentary and other expenses alone. The Liverpool people have thus, as the *Mail* very truly observes, good cause to regret that the corporation did not purchase the interests of the gas companies when they had the opportunity, as a large sum might from such sources have been additionally devoted annually to the public improvement, as is the case, and long has been indeed, in Manchester.——The lessee of the gas-works at Hereford appears to have heretofore been reaping a glorious harvest out of the citizens, as, in fact, he still must be, although it appears he has lately agreed to charge only 10*s.* per 1,000 cubic feet, under a deduction, however, of 15 per cent., a proposal which, according to the *Hereford Times*, has been accepted by the citizens.——The Bath Gas Company, in order to meet the increasing demand for gas there, are enlarging and improving their works at an expense of nearly 3,000*l.* ——The Stratford gas-works are now completed, and the parish will be lighted in course of the present, to it eventful, month.——Will it be credited that at Newcastle, the very fountain-head whence the raw material of gas is distributed for the illumination of millions of millions of burners, and where we have many a time and oft with the deepest interest and wonder contemplated the spontaneous and perpetual issue, and the vast and eternal illumination of the very mammoth of all gas jets that ever enlightened an "enlightened public," opening out of the ground itself, and even still, for all that we know—schemes to the contrary notwithstanding—expended in one perpetual, useless, and extravagant process of combustion,—that there, nevertheless, where not only the raw material, but the ready made article, may thus be had as it were for next to nothing, "the insufficient quantity, and the infamous quality, of the gas are, indeed, notorious!" Such is the fact, attested by the *Gateshead Observer*, while calling on the consumers of that thriving and independent boon-companion rather than offspring or suburb of Newcastle, whose interests are also implicated in this disgraceful state of things, to second the wrathful outburst of indignation with which the Newcastle consumers have at length set about the attainment of a remedy for "the wrongs inflicted upon them by the Gas Company," by memorialising the town council on "the inefficient and shameful manner in which the town is lighted, and praying that body itself to exercise the lighting powers conferred on it by parliament."—The town of Keswick has just been lighted with gas, and one *astonishing* circumstance chronicled by the local press is, that the shopkeepers have had it actually introduced into their shops, an astonishment which we recollect of participating in by anticipation, at Edinburgh at least a quarter of a century since, when it was introduced there, however, into shops, on a small scale, long before the town itself was "lighted with smoke," as the imaginative, but by no means usually or naturally sarcastic, Scott—himself the wonderful illuminator of his day and age—sarcastically and incredulously expressed it.——At Dalmellington, in Ayrshire, the cost of gas consumed in the street lamps is defrayed by an annual dancing festival, on new year's day, ethereally named the "gas ball,"—a really creditable way of totally reversing their old and proverbial national reproach to all obstructives in the path of miscellaneous improvement, a reproach derived from a very primitive and humble practice certainly, but in general betraying an aphoristic significance in the curt and pithy declaration, that such obstructives are provoking and impracticable blockheads, who will "neither dance nor hold the candle."

Burials in Towns.—Mr. G. A. Walker delivered his second lecture on metropolitan grave-yards at the London Mechanics' Institution, on the 22nd inst., and struck another blow at the heart of this monstrous evil. Some recent proceedings in St. Giles's Cemetery, corroborated by the testimony of several witnesses, are too horrible to contemplate. We look to the government for some immediate effort, to guard the community against the dangers to which they are exposed under the present system.

The late Fleet Prison.—The city have paid 25,000*l.* for the conveyance of this freehold, and propose to erect a House of Correction on the site.

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